

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **State Commission Commends Governor for Increasing Funding for California Higher Education**

*January 11, 2005* — Sacramento — The Governor's Budget released yesterday calls for a 6.9 percent increase in General Fund support for California higher education. The proposed increase provides funding for nearly 77,000 additional full-time students, increases for faculty and staff compensation, cost of living adjustments, and the opening of UC Merced.

The proposed budget fulfills last year's "Compact" between the Governor and the state's two public university systems -- an agreement that provides the state's public universities with budget stability if performance expectations are achieved. The proposed budget also provides a 5 percent overall increase in funding for the California Community Colleges. Equally important, the proposed budget limits increases in student fees. Consistent with the compact agreement, undergraduate student fees would increase by 8 percent at UC and CSU. The Governor has proposed no fee increases for community college students. Further, the Governor's budget proposes \$122.8 million in additional student aid to assist financially needy California students.

The California Postsecondary Education Commission commends Governor Schwarzenegger on his proposed budget for higher education. It provides the funding necessary to begin to restore access to an affordable, high-quality public higher education for Californians.

Howard Welinsky, the Commission's Chair stated, "I am pleased the Governor has proposed additional resources and support for California higher education given that the State's economy is directly dependent upon having a well trained and educated workforce."

The Commission's Executive Director Murray J. Haberman added, "The Governor has proposed additional resources to support both the access and affordability of California public higher education, while simultaneously requiring greater accountability of our state's public colleges and universities. His proposal turns California and its higher education institutions in the right direction, and for this he should be commended."

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities. More information about the Commission and its work can be found at its website at [www.cpec.ca.gov](http://www.cpec.ca.gov).